MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2015/2016

PEN0055 – ESSENTIAL ENGLISH

(All Sections / Groups)

01 JUNE 2016
2.30 – 4.30 PM
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **SIX** pages with **THREE** sections only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in **Sections A** and **B.** Answer only **ONE** question in **Section C.**
3. Write all your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [26 MARKS]

Instructions: *Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.*

China's Last Foot-Binding Survivors

1 In rural China, where the neon lights of the country's big cities do not shine, traces of the old country remain, hidden in tiny shoes. Foot binding, the cruel practice of mutilating the feet of young girls, was once **pervasive** in turn-of-the-century China, where it was seen as a sign of wealth and marriage eligibility. For a millennium, the practice flourished on and off, deeply ingrained in Chinese society. Even after it was outlawed in 1912, many women continued to clandestinely bind their daughters' feet, believing it would make them more attractive to suitors.

2 This painful practice of binding young girls' feet is an ancient tradition. However, for nearly a decade, British photographer, Jane Farrell, has been travelling to far-flung Chinese provinces to track down the last surviving women who would openly share their foot binding experience. At first, she was unaware that such women existed. Surprisingly, during her visit, the women readily bared their lotus-like feet for her project without any hesitation.

3 Now, Farrell feels time is running out. She fears that the remaining foot-binding survivors, as well as the memory of the practice, will slip away without documentation. The women she photographed are between 80 and 100 years old, and three of them have already passed away in the course of her project. Therefore, as the last remaining women with bound feet become older and frailer, Farrell is returning to China to find more survivors of the harsh practice which once caused tremendous pain to the women. She is going to put her finger to the shutter at least one last time.

4 Eight years ago, Farrell, curious if the practice of foot binding existed, asked a friend in China, who revealed that she had a grandmother with bound feet. It was this elderly woman, Zhan Yun Ying, who would become Farrell's first subject. "It was kind of shocking but in some ways beautiful," she remembers. "When she took her shoes and socks off, her feet were totally, fully in lotus shape. To me, the feet represented the trouble this woman had been through to attract a partner. There was something quite tremendous about it."

5 Most of the women had their feet bound when they were teenagers, though the practice traditionally began at an even younger age. Bandages would bind the feet in two directions: one crushing the small toes under the ball of the foot, and the other pushing the heel towards the toes to create a steep arch. While none of the women has refused to bare their feet for Farrell's camera, they are baffled by her curiousity. To them, this is an old and ugly world, not something Farrell wants to photograph. Most of them have not even shown their feet to their family members. They are very concerned that this practice may not be reflective of modern China.

6 The archaic practice has often been thought to have affected mainly wealthy Chinese women, whose bound feet showed they could afford not to toil in the fields. However, Farrell found that almost all the women she spoke to were from lower-class farming families. Many had worked in the fields for several decades, doing tasks that did not require much movement, like digging and husking corn.

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7 It was the mothers who wanted to do the best for their daughters, and foot binding was the only way to ensure better marriage prospects for their daughters during ancient China. The tiny, dainty feet were hidden away in miniature shoes. Prospective mothers-in-law, noting the bound feet, would see the girl as someone who had suffered without complaining for a long period of time. She would be a subservient partner to their sons, and *they* were a sign that the girl would be a suitable bride. Today, many of these women have been forgotten even by their villagers. In the village, they are just the old grandmothers who are not talked about. Hence, they suddenly love the fact that they are the centre of attention in Farrell's project. They have not been the centre of attention for a long time.

8 Farrell's work is of an aesthetic precision as she does not crop or edit her captured images in the darkroom. Her genuine pictures do not only depict the crushed toes that mark the cruelty of the practice, but also the women to whom the feet belong, their families and their possessions. A few years ago, Farrell moved from San Francisco to Hong Kong to be closer to China and continued her project. She decided to focus full time on photography. As an experienced photographer, Farrell sees a gap in previous ethnographic work documenting foot binding, which has focused on the delicate shoes, the historic context and the academic analysis of the practice rather than the actual people who are living with its after-effects.

9 Farrell who faced financial constraints to continue her work then, launched a Kickstarter campaign. She raised almost $15,000, and the success amazed her. "I've been working on this for eight years, and no one has really shown any interest in it, but I believe in it: trying to capture some of these women before they all disappear." The Chinese, she says, have shown little interest in studying the last remnants of the practice, mainly because it is an old practice, and they do not like to be shown to be backwards. Therefore, it has been left to her to seek out and document the remaining survivors of this practice. Farrell is continuing to solicit donations and approaching publishers to publish her book. She is also setting up a gallery to display a major exhibition of the photographs. Besides, now she has a reputation to maintain. In the towns she continues to return to, the villagers recognise her immediately. "I'm the foot woman," she says. "It's quite funny."

Adapted from Strochlic, N. (2014, Feb. 07). China's last foot-binding survivors. Retrieved from http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2014/07/02/china-s-last-foot-binding-survivors.htm

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Question 1: Contextual Clues (6 marks)

Instructions: *Provide a word from the reading passage for each definition below.*

Example:	**extensive or widespread**	**(paragraph 1)**	**word: pervasive**
a)	in a secret way	(paragraph 1)	
b)	cruel or rough	(paragraph 3)	
c)	perplexed or confused	(paragraph 5)	
d)	work extremely hard	(paragraph 6)	
e)	accuracy or exactness	(paragraph 8)	
f)	try to obtain something	(paragraph 9)	

Question 2: True or False (5 marks)

Instructions: *For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.*

a) In China, the banning of foot binding by its government in 1912 immediately stopped the practice.

b) The foot-binding survivors were reluctant to engage themselves in Farrell's project.

c) Farrell viewed the foot binding practice as the difficulty women had to experience to find a partner.

d) It was a tradition that foot binding started at an earlier age although most girls performed it during their teenage years.

e) A Kickstarter campaign was launched to financially sustain Farrell's work on documenting foot binding survivors.

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Question 3: Comprehension Questions (15 marks)

Instructions: *Answer the following questions.*

a) Why does Farrell decide to return to China to photograph more foot-binding survivors? (2 marks)

b) State the main idea of paragraph 6 (1 mark)

c) What does "*they*" in line 47 refer to? (1 mark)

d) Why were young girls who practised foot binding considered a more suitable candidate for marriage? (2 marks)

e) Why are the foot-binding survivors happy to be the centre of attention? (2 marks)

f) What are the characteristics of Farrell's work? (3 marks)

g) What is the gap that Farrell sees in the previous ethnographic work of foot binding? (1 mark)

h) What does Farrell plan to do in carrying out her effort to search and record the remaining foot-binding survivors? (3 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [10 MARKS]

Instructions: *The following extract contains 10 errors in fragment, run-on, faulty parallelism and faulty modifier. Identify these errors and correct them as shown in the example.*

Example:

No	Line	Error	Correction
0	2	**...communicative activities, the first...**	**...communicative activities. The first...**

Reading Culture

Reading is the realisation of general interpretative process which underlies all **communicative activities, the first** level is the immediate comprehension of information. The second is the dissemination of this information into meaningful concepts extracting meaning from a text depends crucially on two things, namely the reader's knowledge and purpose and also the writer's effectiveness in giving the reader the necessary pointers. This is to activate his or her knowledge, to broaden his or her general knowledge, and helping him or her absorb new knowledge from the text. Hence, reading is not just a question of reaction but of interaction which is mediated through the text between the writer and the reader. Relying on the process of reading, the message of the writer is decoded and understood by the reader.

There has been a high rate of decline in the reading culture among school children indeed, close observational studies of students within the academic environment showed that most students read during the examination periods while very few made attempts at reading for knowledge and pleasure. Sadly enough, what is happening at present is that students' reading time has now been taken over by home videos, online games, programmes on television, social interactions and other less beneficial indulgences.

Older readers had less choice of media. Compared to younger readers who were raised at a time when new media were proliferating. It was observed that year of birth determined the level of readership. This is a worrisome development because in a situation like this. Experts say it poses serious problems for the country in the future. In the event that poor reading habit is sustained. It will lead to the continuous high failure rates of students' performance in internal and external examinations. A report confirmed the lack of interest by school children to take to reading as a way of life, the average graduate who leaves a university with a degree is not worth the qualification, which he or she is supposed to have. The report concluded that the average graduate lacks technical and English language skills.

Adapted from Ogwu, M. F. (2010), Reading culture as a tool for promoting educational development in Nigeria, *Journal of Communication and Culture*: International Perspective, 1 (3)

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SECTION C: WRITING [24 MARKS]

Instructions: *Write an essay of about 350 words on **ONE** of the topics below.*

a) Advertisers exploit and target children with the hope that they can influence their parents' choices when it comes to buying a product. Compose an exemplification essay on three techniques used by advertisers to attract children to buy their products.

b) In today's world, many people decide to spend their holidays abroad. However, some people still prefer to spend their holidays locally. What are the differences between spending your holidays abroad and spending your holidays in your own country?

End of Paper